

## CLAIMS:

1. A method of accessing a recording medium comprising a data area and a defect management area, in a system comprising a drive for writing data to or reading data from the recording medium, and a host for sending data to or for receiving data from the drive when the recording medium is in a mounted state wherein file system information is available to the host, the method comprising
  - detecting whether a shortage of free space in the defect management area is to be expected,
  - allocating supplemental defect management area at the cost of the data area when the shortage has been detected, and
  - adapting the file system information to reflect a latest state of availability of the data area and the allocated supplemental defect management area, during the mounted state or during an adaptation period related to a mounting phase or an unmounting phase wherein the host mounts or unmounts the disc, respectively.
2. A method of accessing a recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the host performs the detecting, the allocating, and the adapting, all before the host unmounts the recording medium.
3. A method of accessing a recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the drive performs the adapting after the host unmounted the recording medium.
4. A method of accessing a recording medium as claimed in claim 3, wherein the host performs the detecting for providing information to the drive comprising an indication of a usage of free space in the defect management area allocated so far, and of a free area in the data area which can be allocated to become the supplemental defect management area, the information being supplied to the drive at a start of the unmounting phase, the drive performing the allocating after the host unmounted the recording medium.

5. A method of accessing a recording medium as claimed in claim 3, wherein the drive further performs the detecting for evaluating the file system information recorded on the recording medium after the host unmounted the recording medium.

5 6. A method of accessing a recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the drive performs the detecting, the drive further comprises communicating to the host that the shortage has been detected, the host further comprises deciding on whether the defect management area should be enlarged or not, and if yes, indicating) to the drive that the defect management area should be enlarged, and unmounting the recording medium, the drive  
10 further checks the file system information on availability of a sufficient large contiguous free area in the data area, and the drive performs the allocating and the adapting.

7. A method of accessing a recording medium as claimed in claim 6, wherein in-between the communicating and the unmounting, the host asks input from a user whether  
15 enlargement of the defect management area at the cost of the data area is acceptable, and the host indicates to the drive that the defect management area should be enlarged, only if the user indicated to do so.

8. A method of accessing a recording medium as claimed in claim 7, wherein the  
20 host further determines an amount of the contiguous free space available, and indicates this amount to the user.

9. A method of accessing a recording medium as claimed in claim 6, wherein the host provides the file system information to the drive before the unmounting.

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10. A method of accessing a recording medium as claimed in claim 6, wherein the drive reads the file system information from the recording medium after the unmounting.

11. A method of accessing a recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the  
30 allocating further comprises checking the data area to allocate a contiguous free part of the data area, wherever available, to become the supplemental defect management area by updating a defect table in the defect management areas accordingly.

12. A method of accessing a recording medium as claimed in claim 11, wherein the allocating further comprises

updating the file system information such that a physical address area of a used part of the data area at the start or the end of the disc is coupled to a logical address area within the logical address area originally being coupled to the contiguous free part of the data area.

13. A method of accessing a recording medium as claimed in claim 12, wherein the drive further comprises copying the supplemental defect management area if not physically allocated at the start or the end of the disk to the start or the end of the disk during a background process when the disc is mounted and is not in use by the host.

14. An apparatus for accessing a recording medium comprising a data area and a defect management area, the apparatus comprising

a drive for writing data to or reading data from the recording medium,  
a host for sending data to or for receiving data from the drive when the drive is in a mounted state wherein file system information is available to the host,  
means for detecting whether a shortage of free space in the defect management area is to be expected,

means for allocating supplemental defect management area at the cost of the data area when the shortage has been detected, and

means for adapting the file system information to reflect a latest state of availability of the data area and the allocated supplemental defect management area, during the mounted state or during an adaptation period related to a mounting phase or an unmounting phase wherein the host mounts or unmounts the recording medium, respectively.

15. A computer program product for recording information, which program is operative to cause a processor to perform the method claimed in claim 1.

16. A recording medium comprising a disc definition area in which information is recorded indicating that it is allowable to perform the method as claimed in claim 1 on the recording medium.